

Assessing Cancer Risk

If you know the risks you face, you may avoid being blindsided. That's the philosophy of Pacific Shores Medical Group's Cancer Risk Assessment Program, a recent addition to the services we offer.

Advances in genetic testing technologies allow our doctors to determine whether patients are genetically predisposed to breast and ovarian cancers, and new tests for colon cancer are becoming available, says physician assistant Helene Ho in the group's Long Beach office. "We're able to offer patients knowledge and information

about their conditions, so that we can establish a treatment program specifically for them," Ho says. "If we know someone is genetically at a higher risk of some cancers, we can take appropriate and effective preventive steps.

"And sometimes it's good for patients to know where their illness has come from. It's hard to accept sometimes that you've just gotten cancer out of nowhere," she says. "It can be a relief for them to understand that there's a reason why it happened."

Dr. David Burtzo Receives Specialist of the Year Award



Pacific Shores Medical Group, was named Specialist of the Year.

Each year, a group of affiliated physicians from the Greater Newport Physicians Medical Group

Doctor David Burtzo was looking forward to a nice meal with his colleagues at the Greater Newport Physicians annual luncheon in June. He left with an award in his hand.

Dr. Burtzo, an oncologist and hematologist with

are surveyed as to who among them has performed in an exemplary manner. In addition, feedback from patients is solicited. The numbers are crunched, the input is analyzed, and this year, Dr. Burtzo was honored by those who know best what he does – his professional colleagues and his patients.

"I am so glad to see that Dr. Burtzo was recognized for his hard work with the Greater Newport Physicians award. He provides our patients at PSMG with excellent care and compassion. He certainly was deserving of this award and we are all very proud!" says Sharon Westerberg, PA-C.

"I had no idea it was coming," Dr. Burtzo says. "I was totally surprised."

"Dr. Burtzo has compassion, enthusiasm, humor, kindness, and knowledge; all features of a great doctor," says Dr. Tchekmedyan.

Asian Communities Cancer Program

The Asian community is one of the fastest-growing populations in Southern California. Yet the cancers that affect this population the most can be among the most difficult to treat.

Pacific Shores Medical Group is enthusiastically reaching out to this community. Two years ago, we expanded our clinical practice to the San Gabriel Valley, where in many cities, the Asian community represents the majority of the population. We are opening a new office in Monterey Park, across the street from the Garfield Medical Center.

Dr. Hank Yang, who spearheads our expanded clinical program in the Asian community, has been active in patient education. He has appeared on Chinese Sky Link TV to discuss cancer prevention and treatment. Most recently, Pacific Shores Medical Group has become a key sponsor of "Weekly Medical News Review," a program that is aired worldwide on the Sky Link cable network.

Recently, our group joined with the Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center, the Herald Cancer Association and the American Cancer Society to sponsor the HOPE conference that was held at Orange County in August this year. Approximately 400 Chinese cancer patients and their families and friends attended the conference, which was dedicated to helping them better understand cancer, its treatments, and improve their quality of life. Dr. Hank Yang and Dr. Lihong Wu from Pacific Shores were among the speakers at the conference.

In the Asian community, liver and nasopharyngeal cancers are common, and even though the incidence of gastric cancer has steadily decreased over several decades in the United States, it remains high in Asian population. There is a lack of resources and clinical studies that address the special needs of Asian patients. We hope that through our clinical programs that focus

on the cancers that are more common in the Asian population, we can provide our patients with specially trained staff, educational materials as well as newly developed medications and cutting-edge medical technologies.

We are happy to announce our new office opening in Monterey Park in late 2006

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